
Alabama's Movement to Expanded Choice and Consumer Driven Care

Aging and Disability Resource Centers

The Department of Senior Services is working collaboratively with other state and local programs to establish and open two pilot Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). The concept of the ADRC is to provide a consumer centered single point of entry into the continuum of care systems that will screen, educate, assess and refer individuals to the wide range of options for services. Assistance through the ADRC's will be available at on-site locations, through a toll free number (currently 1-800-AGE-LINE) and web based through the existing Elder-Connect (WWW.AGELINE.NET) This initiative will empower individuals to make informed decisions regarding long-term support programs and services. Additionally, a standardized screening and eligibility tool will be created to help individuals with a seamless approach to receiving services. The long term goal is to have the concept of ADRC's in all local communities providing a support system that is preventive, consumer friendly and holistic to help individuals to remain healthy and independent in their local communities.

Additionally, the Governor's Task Force to Strengthen Alabama Families has established two pilot resource centers in Montgomery and Perry counties. Future plan include expanding centers into each county.

Cash and Counseling

Through current waiver services, many elderly and disabled Medicaid recipients receive help with personal care, housekeeping, and meal preparation. However, these clients have no choice or control over when the services are provided, who provides the services, and how they are provided. Under a new initiative known as Cash and Counseling, older adults and adults with disabilities who receive Medicaid will have more flexibility and control over the delivery of their personal care services.

Through a demonstration project in seven West Alabama counties, individuals will be allowed to "cash out" personal care and personal attendant services. Individuals will be provided a monthly allowance from which they will determine what services they need. They may choose to hire a family member or a friend to help with their care or they may wish to save money for equipment purchases. An individual budget is developed to help them manage the allowance. Counselors are available for guidance through the process.

This program is being made possible through a grant the Alabama Department of Senior Services received from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in October 2004. It is designed as a demonstration grant to be conducted through the West Alabama Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging which covers Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens and Tuscaloosa counties.

As a compliment to this program, the Department of Senior Services will assist in the design of a web based application to help manage the flow of information provided to individuals ensuring choice and control over an individual's community based services.

Money Follows the Person, System Transformation Grant

As part of a larger Systems Transformation grant application, the Department of Senior Services proposed a pilot project for Money Follows the Person. The comprehensive proposal called for implementation of a pilot in West Alabama to allow individuals to transition from nursing home care back into the community through consumer directed services. Unfortunately, Alabama was not selected by CMS to receive funding. However, Alabama remains committed and continues to pursue options that will ensure responsibly implemented fundamental systems of service delivery, support, quality assurance, and funding to implement a Money Follows the Person pilot.